**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**
**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2455
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
EXPLOITATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN UTTARANCHAL
BIRLILAL KHABRIL;AXMINARAYAN PANDEY

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether many life saving herbal medicinal forests plants useful in Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine available in Uttaranchal region are being exploited in such a way that many of these varieties of plants are on the verge of extinction; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these plants are ex ploited in such a way that the plants do not become extinct and their production is increased ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

(SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) & (b) A number of medicinal plants have been known to be found in the Himalayan Region. However, there is no comprehensive inventory of such plants. The Government have taken steps to protect and preserve these rare medicinal plants under the following programmes :

(i) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered species of plants including medicinal plants.

(ii) A list of 29 medicinal plants that are threatened or endangered have beeo included in the negative list for exports. The plants, plant portions, derivatives and extracts prepared out of these plants obtained from the wild are not allowed to be exported. In order to protect the endangered medicinal plant species from extinction, such species are not allowed to be drawn from the wild.

(iii) The Report of the Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr.S.N.Tewari, Member, Planning Commission has suggested a Strategy and Action Programme which inter-alia includes conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. The Action Programme provides for specific activities such as conservation, cultivation, documentation, inventorisation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, involving a number of Ministries and Departments in Government of India.

(iv) A 100% centrally sponsored scheme for the conservation and development of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) including medicinal plants is implemented by the National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board (NAEB). Proposals were invited from various States and financial assistance is provided. Regeneration of medicinal plants is carried out in degraded forest areas under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(v) Central Scheme for development and cultivation of medicinal plants wherein financial assistance is provided by the Department of Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy (ISM&H) for setting up of medicinal plants gardens. Prioritisation on the list of medicinal plants is based on the use of medicinal plants in the Indian System of Medicine and those that are endangered and threatened.

(vi) Department of ISM&H also have a Central Scheme for development of agro techniques of medicinal plants to support projects given to Universities and research institutes for development of agro techniques of selected medicinal plants. These are then applied on experimental cultivation plots.